

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amended the claims as shown on the attached sheets.

# CLAIMS 54338

1. (original) A process for preparing oligomers of alkenes having from 4 to 8 carbon atoms from a feed stream comprising such alkenes or hydrocarbon streams in which such alkenes are present over a nickel-containing, heterogeneous catalyst in n successive adiabatically operated reactors, where n is 2 or an integer greater than 2, at from 30 to 280°C and pressures of from 1 to 300 bar, where the feed stream has a temperature  $T_{in}$  when it enters the first reaction zone, experiences a temperature increase in each reaction zone and, if this temperature increase is more than  $T_{in} + 20^{\circ}\text{C}$ , is brought to a temperature in the range  $T_{in} \pm 20^{\circ}\text{C}$  before it enters a subsequent reaction zone, wherein the feed stream is divided and the feed substreams obtained in this way are fed to the 2 reactors, or if more than 2 reactors are used to at least 2 of the reactors, with addition of fresh feed in such a way that the temperature in one of the reactors is at most 20°C higher than that in each of the other reactors used.
2. (original) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein  $T_{in}$  is in the range from 20 to 120°C.
3. (currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the temperature in one of the reactors is at most 10°C higher than that in each of the other reactors used.
4. (currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 3~~, wherein the proportion of oligomers in the feed stream and in the feed substreams does not exceed 30% by weight.
5. (currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 4~~, wherein the feed stream and the feed substreams is/are reacted in condensed form.